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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this publication is to provide a concise introduction to major statistical trends and developments in the American education system up to 1979-80. Twenty-six pages of figures and tables are briefly explained in the text. Six areas of interest are examined. First the number of school districts, public and private schools, and colleges of several types is looked at and compared with previous years. Enrollment in public and private schools, colleges, and universities is then examined and trends identified. The report briefly notes the number of teachers at all levels and pinpoints recent reversals of long-term trends. The number of high school and college degrees awarded is the subject of one section in which degrees in five areas--management, education, engineering, foreign language, mathematics, and statistics--are highlighted. The report also reviews educational revenues and expenditures, including sources and amounts of funds, proportion of government funds spent on education, and comparison of expenditures for education with the gross national product for the past 50 years. School retention rates and level of attainment are examined, including attainment trends over the last 70 years, SAT test scores, and states using minimum competency testing. (JM)

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Education in the United States:

Statistical Highlights through 1979-80

by

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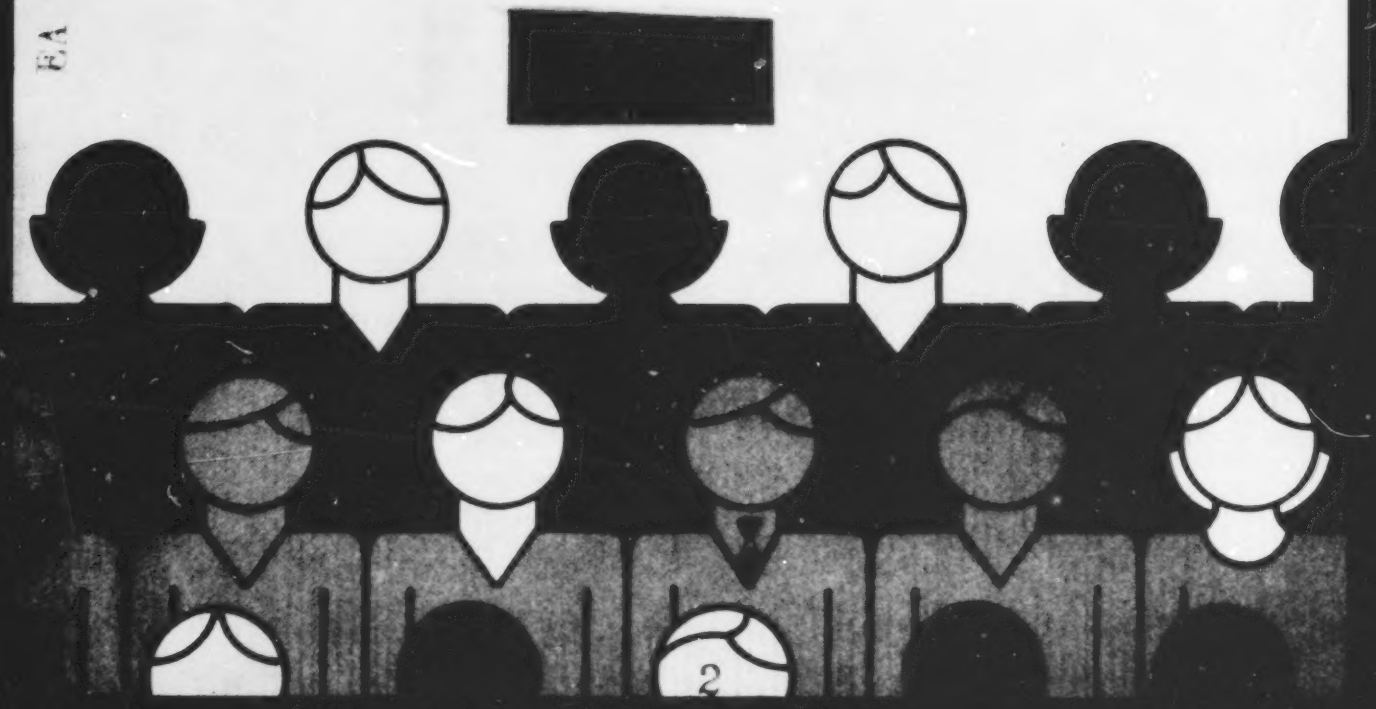
EA 013 820



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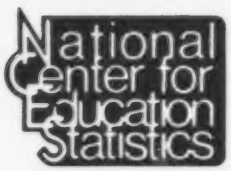

National Center for Education Statistics

"The purpose of the Center shall be to collect and disseminate statistics and other data related to education in the United States and in other nations. The Center shall . . . collect, collate, and, from time to time, report full and complete statistics on the conditions of education in the United States; conduct and publish reports on specialized analyses of the meaning and significance of such statistics; . . . and review and report on education activities in foreign countries."--Section 406(b) of the General Education Provisions Act, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1221e-1).

Foreword

This is the second report by this title which provides a synopsis of statistical highlights of education in the United States. This edition relates, in most cases, to the school year 1979-80. In some instances, comparisons have been made over 5- and 10- year periods or longer to show noteworthy trends. When data for 1979-80 were not available, statistics for an appropriate earlier year were substituted.

Six areas of interest, primarily concerning elementary, secondary, and higher education, have been selected for examination. The materials have been gathered from sources both within and outside the National Center for Education Statistics.

It is the purpose of this publication to provide the reader with a concise introduction to certain major trends and developments in the American educational systems.

Forrest W. Harrison, Chief,
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Assistant Administrator for Statistical Services

April 1981

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Information about the Center's statistical program and a catalogue of publications may be obtained from the Statistical Information Office, National Center for Education Statistics (1001 Presidential Building), 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20202, telephone (301) 436-7900.

Contents

iii Foreword

1 Overview

3 School Districts, Schools, and Colleges

7 Enrollment

11 Teachers and Instructional Staff

13 High School and College Graduates

17 Revenues and Expenditures

21 School Retention Rates and Level of Attainment

Figures

1. The structure of education in the United States 25

2. Number of local public school systems: United States, 1945-46 to 1979-80 26

3. Enrollment in institutions of higher education, by sex, age, and attendance status: United States, fall 1969 to fall 1979 27

4. Number of bachelor's, master's, and doctor's degrees conferred in five selected areas: United States, 1963-64 to 1978-79 28

5. Expenditures for education, health, and defense as a percent of gross national product: United States, 1949 to 1978 29

6. Level of school completed by persons 25 years old and over: United States, 1910 to 1980 30

Tables

School Districts, Schools, and Colleges

1. Statistics for public elementary and secondary schools: United States, fall 1974 and fall 1979 — 33

Enrollment

2. Enrollment in educational institutions, by level of instruction and type of control: United States, fall 1978 and fall 1979 — 34

3. Enrollment in grades 9-12 in public and private schools compared with population 14-17 years of age: United States, 1889-90 to fall 1979 — 35

4. Enrollment of 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old children in preprimary programs, by age and by type of program: United States, October 1978 and October 1979 — 36

5. Total enrollment in institutions of higher education compared with the population aged 18-24: United States, fall 1963 to fall 1979 — 37

6. Enrollment in institutions of higher education, by age, sex, and attendance status of student: United States, fall 1969, 1974, and 1979 — 38

Teachers and Instructional Staff

7. Number of teachers in regular elementary and secondary schools, and instructional staff members in institutions of higher education, by level and control: United States, 1929-30 to fall 1979 — 39

8. Pupil-teacher ratios in public elementary and secondary day schools: United States, fall 1954 to fall 1979 — 40

High School and College Graduates

9. Number of high school graduates, by sex: United States, 1869-70 to 1978-79 — 41

10. Earned degrees conferred by institutions of higher education, by level of degree: United States, 1869-70 to 1978-79 — 42

11. Earned degrees conferred by institutions of higher education, by field of study and by level: United States, 1978-79 — 43

Revenues and Expenditures

12. Revenue receipts of public elementary and — 44

secondary schools from Federal, State, and local sources: United States, 1919-20 to 1978-79

13. Total and per-pupil expenditures of public elementary and secondary schools: United States, 1919-20 to 1978-79 45

14. Current-fund revenue of institutions of higher education, by control of institution and by source of revenue: United States, 1978-79 46

15. Governmental expenditures for education and for all purposes: United States, 1972-73 to 1978-79 47

16. Gross national product related to total expenditures for education: United States, 1929-30 to 1978-79 47

School Retention Rates and Level of Attainment

17. Estimated retention rates, 5th grade through college entrance, in public and private schools: United States, 1924-32 to 1971-79 48

18. Level of school completed by persons age 25 and over and 25 to 29, by race: United States, 1910 to 1980 49

19. Scholastic Aptitude Test score averages for college-bound high school seniors, by sex: United States, 1966-67 to 1979-80 50

20. States using minimum competency testing, by government level setting standards, grade levels assessed, and expected uses of standards: 1979 51

Overview

Education was the primary occupation of approximately 62.1 million Americans in the fall of 1979. Included in this total were more than 58.5 million students, almost 3.3 million teachers, and about 300,000 other instructional staff members, superintendents, principals, and supervisors. Of this total, more than 44 million persons were actively involved in public elementary and secondary schools alone.

This means that, in a nation of more than 227 million individuals, nearly 3 out of every 10 persons were directly involved in the educational process.

It is not surprising that so much attention has been focused on education in the United States. In the 1978-79 school year, it was estimated that $152 billion, or more than 7 percent of the gross national product, was expended in this endeavor. Increased support for education in recent years has come from Federal, State, and local governments, as well as from a variety of private sources.

The material that follows provides more detailed information on the status of education in the United States.

School Districts, Schools, and Colleges

Statistics of public schools today show a continuation of the long-term trend to reduce the number of school districts (figure 2). The present rate of decline, however, is much slower than it has been. In the last school year, for example, 15,929 local agencies provided free public elementary and secondary education in the United States (table 1). The previous year, 16,014 provided this service. The decrease, while hardly negligible, was insignificant in light of the continued decline since the end of World War II, when more than 101,000 school systems operated in this country. Over the 34-year period from 1945-46 through 1979-80, more than 85,000 school districts were eliminated. Of these, the largest number (71 percent) were dropped between 1945-46 and 1959-60. From then on, the elimination rate tapered off, with less than 4 percent of the total being eliminated between 1969-70 and 1979-80. (The 1979 total would be smaller if the 304 nonoperating districts are omitted. These self-contained local public school systems have their own decision-making boards of education, but they usually pay tuition to nearby operating systems for educating children who live within their boundaries.)

The number of local school districts reflects a reduction that has resulted from the consolidation of small systems and from laws authorizing or requiring reorganization. Because of the long-term trend toward fewer school districts and greater numbers of pupils, the average enrollment for all school systems in the country has increased over time. The most recent data show the average to be slightly more than 2,600 pupils per school

district; in 1945 the average school system served just 230 pupils.

Year	Public School Pupils	School Systems	Pupils/ School System
1979.....	41.6 million	15,929	2,610
1969.....	45.6 million	19,169	2,380
1945.....	23.3 million	101,382	230

Today most of the nation's public school pupils are concentrated in the larger school systems. Last year, nearly 50 percent of all students were enrolled in just over 4 percent of the operating school systems.

On the other hand, school systems with fewer than 300 pupils constituted more than a quarter of all of the local education agencies in the United States; yet they enrolled only slightly more than 1 percent of the country's public school pupils.

There were some 87,004 public elementary and secondary schools in the United States in the fall of 1979. This was 1,691 fewer schools than there were 5 years earlier, and 3,817 fewer than in the fall of 1970. This trend reflects school consolidation and the closing of small rural schools.

The number of one-teacher schools has shown a rapid numerical decline over time. At the year of the stock market crash (1929-30), there were nearly 150,000 one-teacher schools. Following the end of the Second World War (1945-46) their numbers had dropped to about 87,000. Today they number just over 1,000 and nearly 70 percent of these schools are located in just 3 States – Nebraska, 435; South Dakota, 151; and Montana, 104.

A type of public school whose numbers have also dropped in recent years is the combined elementary-secondary school. Just since the 1967-68 school year the number of these schools has declined by more than half – dropping from 3,693 to 1,521 during the 1966-77 academic year.

With the reduction in the number of one-teacher and combined elementary and secondary public schools came the evolution and rapid growth of middle schools. Middle schools are separately organized and administered schools usually beginning at grades 5 or 6 and including at least three grades. The distribution of grades in a school system with middle schools is usually 4-4-4 or 5-3-4. Their purpose is to serve the particular needs of adolescent students between 10 and 14 years old. Since the National Center for Education Statistics began collecting data on these schools in 1970, their number has more than doubled.

School Year	Number of Middle Schools
1970-71.....	2,080
1976-77.....	4,180

Those States which did report having a middle school in the 1976-77 school year ranged from the State of Hawaii with 1 to California with 472; only 7 States and the District of Columbia did not report a middle school in their area.

During the 1978-79 school year, nearly 20,000 private schools operated in America. This total constitutes about one-fifth of all elementary and secondary schools in the country. Since, until recently, there has been no systematic annual effort to collect statistical data from private schools which could be compared to public school data, long-term trends cannot be presented. However, when comparisons are made to data collected 2 years earlier, it can be said that there has been a slight decrease in the number from 20,084 to 19,668 schools.

In 1978-79, slightly more than 50 percent of these private schools were operated by the Roman Catholic Church (9,849). Privately controlled schools not affiliated with a church made up 20 percent of the total.

There were 3,152 colleges and universities in the United States during the 1979-80 academic year. This is a net increase of 18 institutions over the previous year and represents the smallest annual percentage increase in more than a decade. Two-year colleges now comprise 38 percent of all colleges (1,195); yet this is only one-tenth of 1 percentage point more than the data showed 5 years earlier, and only a 3 percentage point increase from a decade ago. The number of 4-year colleges and universities now stands at 1,957.

Despite widely announced large enrollments in public institutions of higher education recently, the total number of private colleges has continued to rise. Compared to the previous school year, private colleges showed a net increase of 17 institutions, whereas total public institutions increased by only 1. Private colleges also constitute a slightly larger percentage of the total number today (53.2 percent) than they did 5 years ago (52.3 percent). Four-year private colleges (1,408) outnumber their public counterparts (549) by more than 2 1/2 to 1. Their number closely approaches the combined number of public 2- and 4-year colleges (1,475). A large proportion of these private 4-year institutions (85 percent) have fewer than 2,500 students enrolled.

Most of the publicly controlled institutions are 2-year colleges. There were 926 community and junior colleges during the 1979-80 school year, or nearly 63 percent of all public institutions of higher education. Most of these 2-year institutions (671) have student enrollments of 1,000 to 10,000.

Geographically, nearly 65 percent of all institutions of higher education are located east of the Mississippi River. Just 2 States, at opposite ends of the country (California, 264; New York, 298), account for nearly 20 percent of the Nation's colleges.

Another trend in American higher education has been

towards coeducation. In the past 10 years, the number of institutions for men has declined by 59, and the number for women by 115. During the same period, the number of coeducational institutions rose by 782. Today, more than 99 percent of the single-sex institutions are private; in 1979-80, only 2 were publicly controlled colleges (Virginia Military Institute, for men; and Mississippi University for Women).

Year	Coeducational	Institutions for Men	Institutions for Women
1969-70.	2,141	174	228
1974-75.	2,748	125	137
1979-80.	2,923	115	113

Enrollment

The decade of the 1970's has witnessed a reversal -- from expansion to retrenchment -- in the Nation's education system. From the early 1960's to the mid-1970's, there was a substantial decline in the annual number of births in the United States. This lower birth rate has been reflected in decreasing enrollments in the elementary grades throughout the past decade and is now being felt at the high school level. College enrollments will begin to decrease in the early 1980's.

Total public school enrollments peaked at 46.1 million in fall 1971 and have declined, with larger percentage drops each year since (with the exception of fall 1975). The largest percentage decrease -- 2.5 percent -- occurred between fall 1978 and fall 1979 (from 42.6 to 41.6 million -- table 2). The enrollment decline is expected to continue into the mid-1980's before the number of pupils begins to climb once again. Public elementary school enrollments, which began to fall in 1970, reached 27.9 million in 1979 and are expected to continue to decrease until 1985. Public high school enrollments, which peaked at 14.3 million in 1976, fell to 13.7 million by 1979. Continued decreases are expected throughout most of the 1980's.

Enrollments in private elementary schools declined during the early 1970's, leveled off, then began to fall again in the latter part of the decade to an estimated low of 3.6 million in 1979. Private high school enrollments actually increased throughout the decade to a peak of 1.5 million (estimated) in 1979.

Control	1978-79 Enrollment	Percent
Public	42.6 million	89.3
Private	5.1 million	10.7
Church affiliated	(4.3 million)	(84.3)
Non-affiliated	(.8 million)	(15.6)

Private schools comprise an increasingly important segment of the Nation's educational system. As of fall 1978 (the latest year for which detailed data are available), private schools enrolled 10.7 percent of all elementary and secondary school children. While private school enrollments dropped by 2 percent below the fall 1976 level, the percentage decrease was smaller than the 4 percent drop in public school enrollment. This indicates a slight shift of children from public to private schools.

Although enrollments are declining in numerical terms, the proportion of children and young persons who enroll in school has continued to rise. Table 3 illustrates the long-term growth at the high school level. From 1890 to 1979, while the population aged 14 to 17 tripled, high school enrollments increased more than 42 times. In 1890, only about 1 in 15 persons of high school age was enrolled in school; in 1979 the figure was more than 9 out of 10.

Rising enrollment rates have also been responsible for the strong upward trend over the past 10 years in early childhood education. Although the declining birth rate has reduced the number of 3-, 4-, and 5-year olds, the proportion of children in this age group enrolling in preprimary programs has risen steadily. In 1979, about one-quarter of the 3-year-olds, almost one-half of the 4-year-olds, and over four-fifths of the 5-year-olds were enrolled (table 4).

In higher education, rising enrollment rates are also an important factor in increased enrollments, although this age group has been growing numerically as well. Over the past 15 years, college enrollments have more than doubled and the proportion of young people attending college has risen. College enrollment expressed as a percentage of the population aged 18 to 24 rose from 28.1 percent in 1964 to 39.5 percent today (table 5). However, the college-age population is expected to decline after 1981, and emerging trends in college attendance rates will determine what happens to higher education enrollments at that point. In recent years, the increased attendance of women, older students (age 25 and over), and part-time students has played a major role in maintaining college enrollments at a high level (figure 3). Over the last 10 years (fall 1969 to fall 1979), part-time enrollment has risen at over 3 1/2 times the rate of full-time enrollment (87.3 and 23.9 percent respectively), and part-time enrollment of students over 25 has increased 99.6 percent (table 6). This increase in part-time enrollment of older students is accounted for primarily by women,

up 167.7 percent, rather than men, up only 15.3 percent.

Many colleges and universities are recruiting foreign students in an effort to offset expected enrollment declines in the 1980's. The number of foreign students in U.S. institutions of higher education has increased dramatically throughout the 1970's. In the last 5 years alone, their number increased by 85.2 percent, from 154,580 in 1974 to 286,340 in 1979 (from 1.5 to 2.5 percent of total enrollment). The increase has been particularly dramatic among students from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) – from 29,700 in 1974 to 100,360 in 1979 (an increase of 237.9 percent). Whereas 5 years ago students from OPEC countries represented 19.2 percent of the foreign students in the U.S., in 1979 they accounted for 35.0 percent. Iran has by far the largest number of students here – 51,310 in 1979 -- almost 3 times the number from Taiwan, the second largest source of foreign students.

Enrollments in noncollegiate vocational schools have been rising, up to almost 1.5 million in 1978 (the latest year for which data are available). This is an 11.5 percent increase over the 1974 enrollment. Private vocational schools enroll more than twice as many students as public schools. In the public sector, enrollments are concentrated in vocational/technical schools, and in the private sector, in business/office schools.

The steady increase among participants in adult education illustrates the growing acceptance of learning as a lifelong process. In 1978 there were 18.2 million participants, with heavy concentrations in courses in business, engineering and engineering-related technologies, and health care sciences.

Teachers and Instructional Staff

The teaching staff in American schools and colleges grew rapidly during the 1960's, keeping pace with, and frequently exceeding, the rise in enrollments. During the mid-1970's the rate of increase became very slight.

Between the fall of 1978 and 1979 there was actually a decrease of 9,000 teachers below the college level (table 7). Teachers from the elementary level accounted for 1,000 of this decline. This was the result of an increase of 6,000 private elementary school teachers coupled with a decrease of nearly 7,000 teachers in public elementary schools.

There were also 8,000 fewer secondary school teachers in fall 1979 than there had been a year earlier. A gain of 3,000 private secondary school classroom teachers in the fall of 1979 could not offset the decrease of 11,000 teachers in the public sector.

These latest figures indicate the reversal of a long-term trend – greatly increasing numbers of public elementary and secondary school teachers, compared to much slower growth of classroom teachers in the privately controlled schools. The 1969-70 academic year saw 49.3 percent more public school teachers than there were 10 years earlier; whereas the private schools saw only a 24.7 percent increase. When this comparison is made for the following decade (fall 1979 data to the 1969-70 school year), the percentage increases greatly change – there were 23.3 percent more private school classroom teachers in fall 1979 than during the 1969-70 school year, yet only a 7.8

percent increase for public school teachers over this same period.

Instructional staff at the college level has vastly increased over time. The instructional staff in American colleges and universities in 1979 was estimated to be more than four times as large as the staff 30 years earlier. In 1949-50, the instructional staff in private institutions constituted nearly 54 percent of the total; in the fall of 1979 it was estimated that they made up only 27 percent. This occurrence seems to mirror the shift in college enrollments. Thirty years ago about 51 percent of all college students were attending privately controlled schools. In the fall of 1979, this had dropped to 22 percent. The shift in the percentages of college instructional staff and enrollments can be noted in the table below:

School Year	Instructional Staff		
	Total	Public	Private
1949-50	100.0	46.1	53.9
1959-60	100.0	51.3	48.7
1969-70	100.0	64.5	35.5
Fall 1979	100.0	73.2	26.8
	Enrollment		
1949-50	100.0	49.4	50.6
1959-60	100.0	58.6	41.4
1969-70	100.0	73.7	26.3
Fall 1979	100.0	78.1	21.9

The long-range trend has been for the number of public elementary and secondary school teachers to grow at a somewhat faster rate than school enrollments. In recent years, enrollment has declined by greater percentage drops each successive year; however, the percentage change in the number of teachers has been inconsistent from year to year. In each year examined for the public schools, enrollment has decreased by a larger percentage than classroom teachers. Consequently, there has been a trend toward fewer pupils per teacher.

Fall	Percentage change from the previous school year	
	Enrollment	Teachers
1975	− .58	+ 1.42
1976	− 1.06	− .47
1977	− 1.67	+ 1.03
1978	− 2.22	− .43
1979	− 2.42	− .84

Table 8 presents more than a quarter century of pupil-teacher ratios in public elementary and secondary day schools. In the fall of 1979, there were 19.1 pupils per teacher, This is about 3 1/2 students fewer than in the year the United States landed its first man on the moon in 1969, and nearly 9 fewer pupils per teacher than in 1954.

High School and College Graduates

Slightly more than 3,134,000 persons graduated from high school during the 1978-79 school year. This represents an increase of fewer than 500 graduates over the previous school year. In addition, American colleges conferred more than 1.3 million bachelor's and higher degrees. About 75 percent of these degrees were at the bachelor's and first-professional levels (990,000). There were also 301,000 master's degrees conferred and 33,000 doctorates.

Over the last 25 years, the annual number of high school graduates has doubled (table 9) and the number of bachelor's and first-professional degrees combined has more than tripled. The number of master's degrees conferred today is more than five times what it was in 1953-54, and doctorates have nearly quadrupled (table 10). These high growth rates reflect the rise in the number of young people of high school and college age and also a substantial increase in the proportion completing each level of education.

The number of earned degrees conferred in 24 major fields of study in academic year 1978-79 is shown in table 11. At the bachelor's level, just 3 fields alone accounted for more than 44 percent of all degrees conferred. These fields were business and management, education, and social sciences. The traditional fields of law, health professions, and theology were the leaders at the first-professional level. More master's degrees were awarded in the fields of education and business and management than in any other. Nearly 4 of 10 master's degrees were conferred in the field of education

alone. More than 3,000 doctorates were conferred in each of four fields: education, biological sciences, social sciences, and physical sciences.

Of particular interest is the change in the number of degrees conferred in selected fields of study over the past 15 year (figure 4). Bachelor's degrees conferred in business and management and in engineering have expanded significantly since the mid-1960's. With the exception of only 1 year, degrees in business and management have increased each successive year from about 46,000 in 1963-64 to 173,000 in 1978-79. Bachelor's in engineering grew from slightly more than 37,000 degrees awarded in 1963-64 to more than 62,000 fifteen years later.

Bachelor's degrees in education rose dramatically from 111,000 in 1963-64 to peak at 194,000 in 1972-73. Since that time they have declined annually to the 126,000 degrees conferred in 1978-79. From the early 1960's to mid-1970's, there were always at least 50,000 more bachelor degrees awarded each year in education than in business and management, but this trend has gradually reversed. In 1978-79, there were nearly 50,000 more bachelor's degrees awarded in business and management than in education.

The number of bachelor's degrees awarded annually in mathematics and statistics rose slightly during the 1960's to 27,000 in 1969-70. Since that time there have been gradual annual reductions. Bachelor's degrees awarded in foreign languages grew from about 12,000 in the 1963-64 academic year to nearly 21,000 by the end of the decade. During the 1970's, however, they began to drop, and by 1978-79 their number was below what it had been 15 years earlier.

Master's degrees in mathematics and statistics and in foreign languages peaked in the late 1960's – in 1978-79 the number of degrees in both areas was only slightly half of what it had been in 1969-70. Degrees in business and management have grown from 6,000 in 1963-64 to 51,000 in 1978-79. The number of education master's degrees awarded in 1975-76 (128,000) was more than three times the figure in 1963-64 (40,000).

Doctor's degrees awarded in education have advanced significantly in recent years. In 1963-64, 2,300 doctorates were awarded in this field. By 1976-77, the number had grown to nearly 8,000.

Fifteen years of data show that the engineering doctorates awarded grew annually from the mid-1960's through the early 1970's. The numbers have since continued to decrease each year until the 1978-79 academic year.

Doctor's degrees awarded in business and management also increased from the mid-1960's through the mid-1970's. Since then there have been very slight annual decreases. Doctorates in mathematics and statistics saw annual growth through the 1969-70 academic year, but since that time there have been fewer doctorates awarded each year than in the previous school year.

To summarize recent developments in these five

areas – below the doctorate, an increasing number of degrees is being awarded in business and management and fewer degrees conferred in education. The field of engineering is experiencing substantial increases at the bachelor's degree level, and since the beginning of the 1970's, fewer and fewer have been conferred in foreign languages and in mathematics and statistics.

Revenues and Expenditures

Public elementary and secondary schools receive virtually all of their revenue from governmental sources. Income from other sources, such as gifts and fees, amounts to less than one-half of 1 percent of total revenue receipts. In the past, local governments contributed more than any other source, but in recent years the proportions from the Federal and State governments have increased (table 12). In 1978-79, for the first time, revenue from State sources exceeded that from local sources (45.7 and 44.5 percent, respectively). The proportion from the Federal Government, which has been rising steadily, reached 9.8 percent in 1978-79.

Public school expenditures have continued to rise despite the fact that enrollments have declined. Expenditures totalled $86.7 billion in 1978-79, an increase of 80.5 percent over the $48.1 billion expended 7 years earlier. Increasing expenditures and falling enrollments have resulted in a rapidly rising current per-pupil expenditure, reaching $2,021 in 1978-79 (table 13).

In contrast with public schools, private schools receive almost all their income from gifts and fees. Their only other significant revenue source is the Federal Government. Private schools spend much less per pupil than public schools--$819 in 1977-78* compared with $1,823. Adjusted to 1978-79 purchasing power, the current per-pupil expenditure for public schools was $1,994, and for private schools, $896. This sizable difference is primarily due to the fact that between 60

*The latest year for which private school data are available.

and 80 percent of a school's total expenditure is made up of salaries. More than three-quarters of private school teachers are employed by church-affiliated schools where salaries, particularly those paid to members of religious orders, are lower than those paid to public school teachers. Also, the expenditure figures for private schools probably do not take into account contributed services. In church-related schools, this can be a substantial item.

In the higher education community, concern has grown during the 1970's as inflation has mounted and administrators have faced the prospect of coming enrollment declines. These factors form an unprecedented combination that may produce an extended period of lower revenue and higher expenditures. This is a particularly unsettling specter for an enterprise that has just recently undergone its greatest period of growth and expansion. For the time being, however, enrollments and revenues are still rising. In 1978-79, total current-fund income was $51.8 billion, up 63.5 percent since 1973-74.

	[In billions]			
	1973-74	1975-76	1977-78	1978-79
Current fund revenue	$31.7	$39.7	$47.0	$51.8

Public institutions received $34.5 billion in 1978-79, the bulk of it (46.4 percent) coming from State sources (table 14). Private institutions, on the other hand, received the largest portion (36.5 percent) of their $17.3 billion in current fund revenue from tuition and fees. Private schools received proportionately more from the Federal Government than did public schools (19.1 and 13.1 percent of their current-fund revenue, respectively).

Current fund expenditures and mandatory transfers (transfers which must be made to fulfill a binding legal obligation) reached $50.7 billion in 1978-79 ($33.7 billion at public schools and $17.0 billion at private schools). In recent years, expenditures at public institutions have increased at a much higher rate than those at private institutions.

Table 15, which compares total government spending (Federal, State, and local combined) with expenditures for education, shows that the proportion spent on education decreased during the 1970's. While education accounts for slightly more than one-seventh of all government expenditures in the United States, the proportion varies by governmental level. State and local governments spend substantially more than one-seventh of their total budgets for education. The Federal Government, with its greater diversity of programs and responsibilities, spends proportionately less.

Table 16 compares total expenditures for education (elementary, secondary, and higher education, both public and private) with the gross national product over

the past 50 years. Educational expenditures for school year 1978-79, estimated at $152.1 billion, amounted to 7.1 percent of the gross national product. During the 1970's, educational expenditures have consistently amounted to between 7 and 8 percent of the gross national product. If this measure is used as a yardstick for assessing trends over time, expenditures are about four times as large today as they were in the mid-1940's. A comparison of education, health, and defense expenditures as a percent of the gross national product is shown in figure 5.

School Retention Rates and Level of Attainment

Table 17 shows the increase in school retention rates from the fifth grade through college entrance since the early 1930's. During this period, the proportion of fifth graders who went on to graduate from high school increased from about 30 percent to nearly 75 percent. In other words, the rate of graduation is now about 2½ times that which prevailed in 1932. The increase in college attendance is even more striking: an estimated 45 percent of our young people now enter college; in 1932 the comparable figure was 12 percent.

Since 1940, the U.S. Bureau of the Census has collected statistics on the educational attainment of the population in this country. Table 18, which is derived from Census publications, compares the educational attainment of the population 25 to 29 years of age with that of the total population 25 and over. The former group in March 1980 had completed about one-half year of school more than the total adult population. Almost 86 percent of the 25-to-29-year-old group reported that they had completed the equivalent of a high school education, as compared with less than 69 percent of all adults. Over 22 percent of the young adults identified themselves as college graduates, while 17 percent of all adults had completed 4 or more years of college. Trend data for the past 70 years concerning the level of educational attainment in the United States are shown in figure 6.

Recent years have not only brought an increase in the number of Americans completing, on the average, more years of school. The public has also grown more

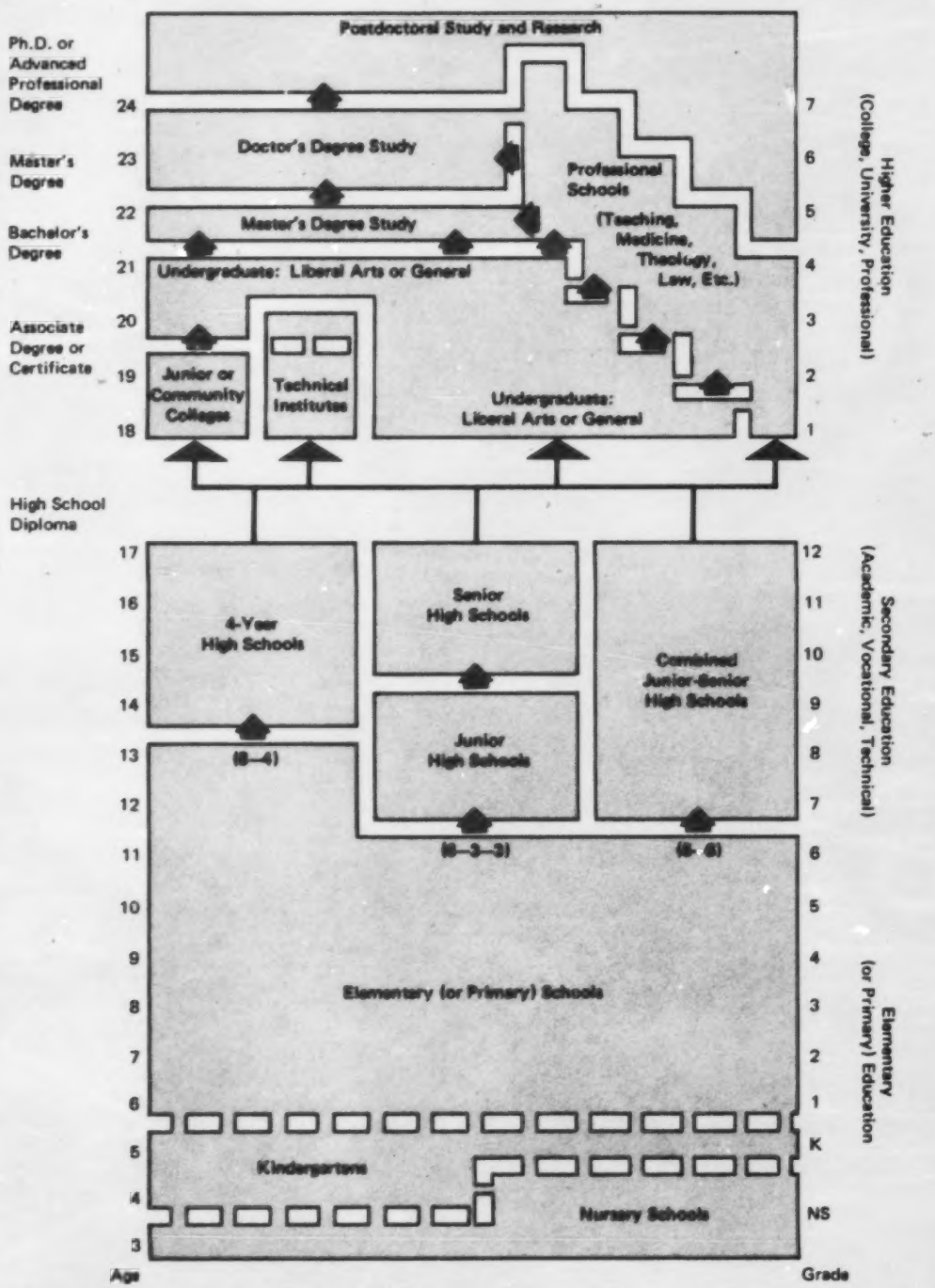
concerned about the achievement levels of elementary and secondary students. Compared to 5 years ago, the 1979-80 scores on the verbal and mathematical Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SAT) were down 10 and 6 points respectively. A decade ago, verbal scores were 36 points higher and the results in mathematics were 22 points higher (table 19).

This and other concerns have encouraged a number of States and local public school systems to adopt minimum competency testing. It is expected that these tests will be used for a number of purposes, including: grade promotion, high school graduation, early exit, and remediation. Table 20 shows the 39 states which in 1979 used minimum competency testing.

The factors discussed in this report do provide an encouraging note regarding education in the United States. Not only is there a dedication by the citizenry to provide a free public education for all individuals; but there is also a commitment on the part of the American people to assure that it will be a quality education.

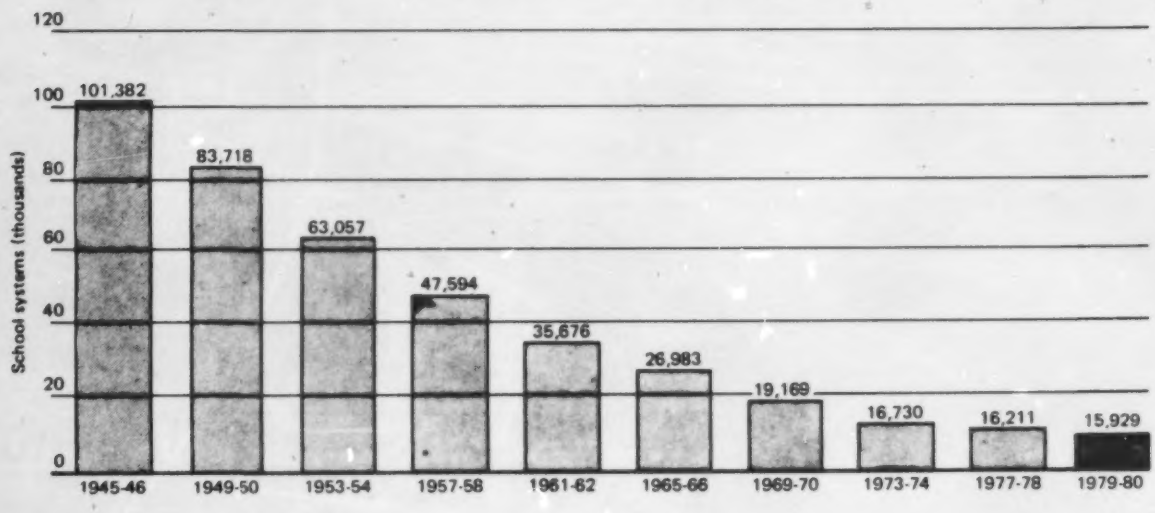
Figures

Figure 1.–The structure of education in the United States



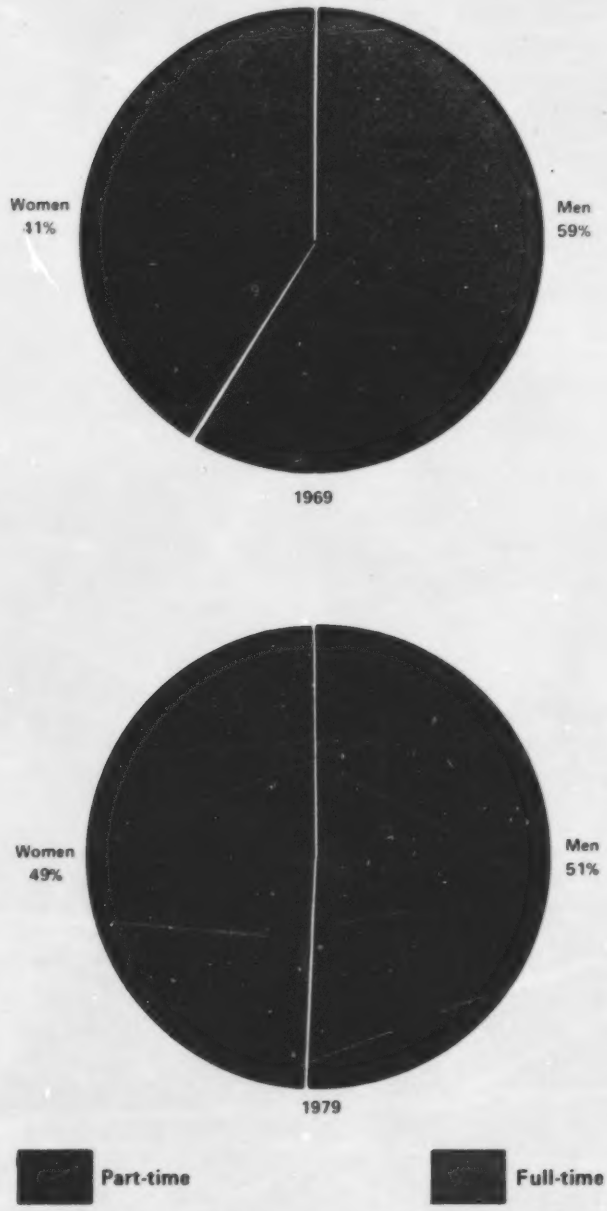
NOTE:–Adult education programs, while not separately delineated above, may provide instruction at the elementary, secondary, or higher education level.

Figure 2.--Number of local public school systems: United States, 1945-46 to 1979-80



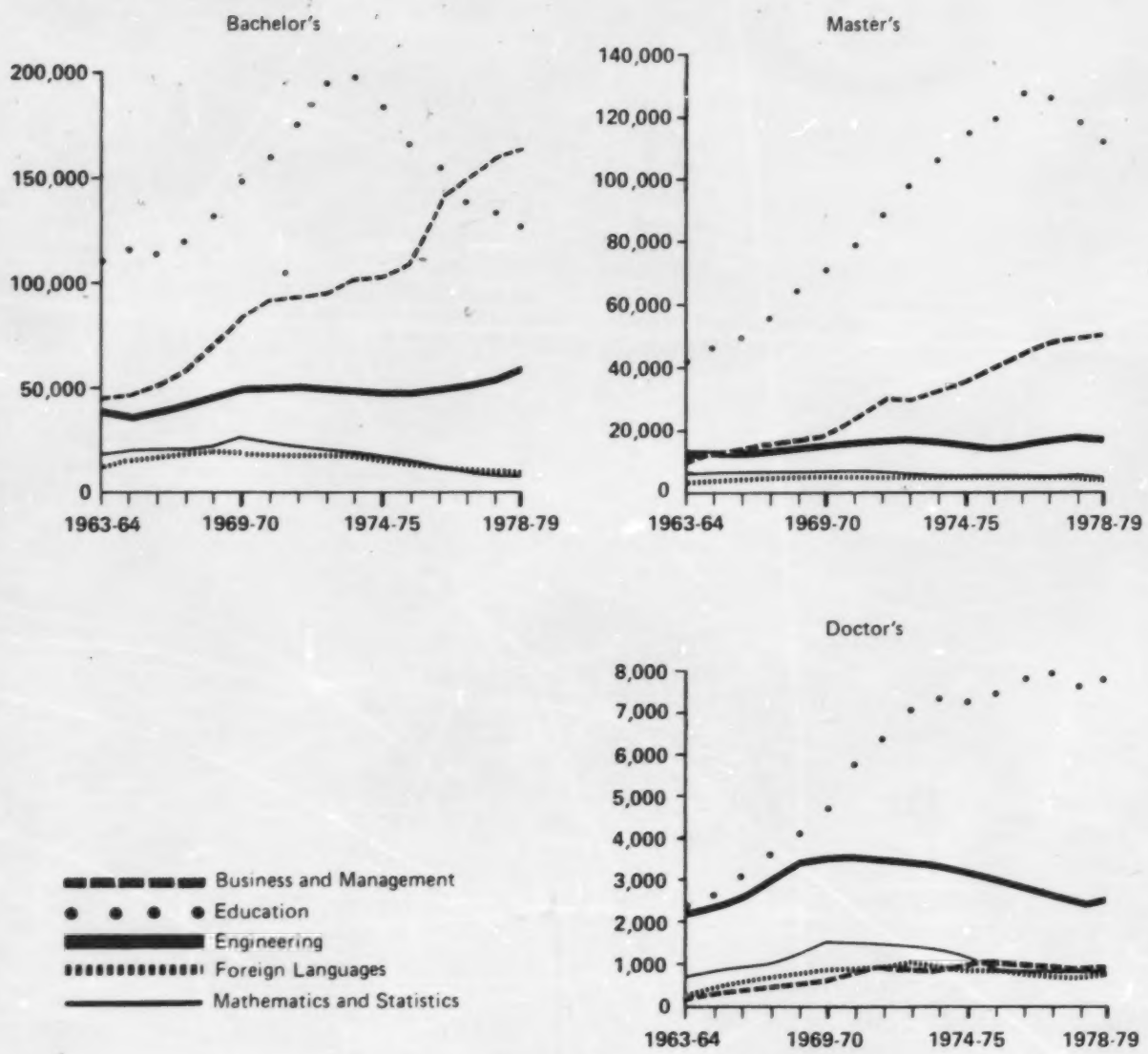
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics, 1981*.

Figure 3.--Enrollment in institutions of higher education, by sex, age, and attendance status: United States, fall 1969 and fall 1979



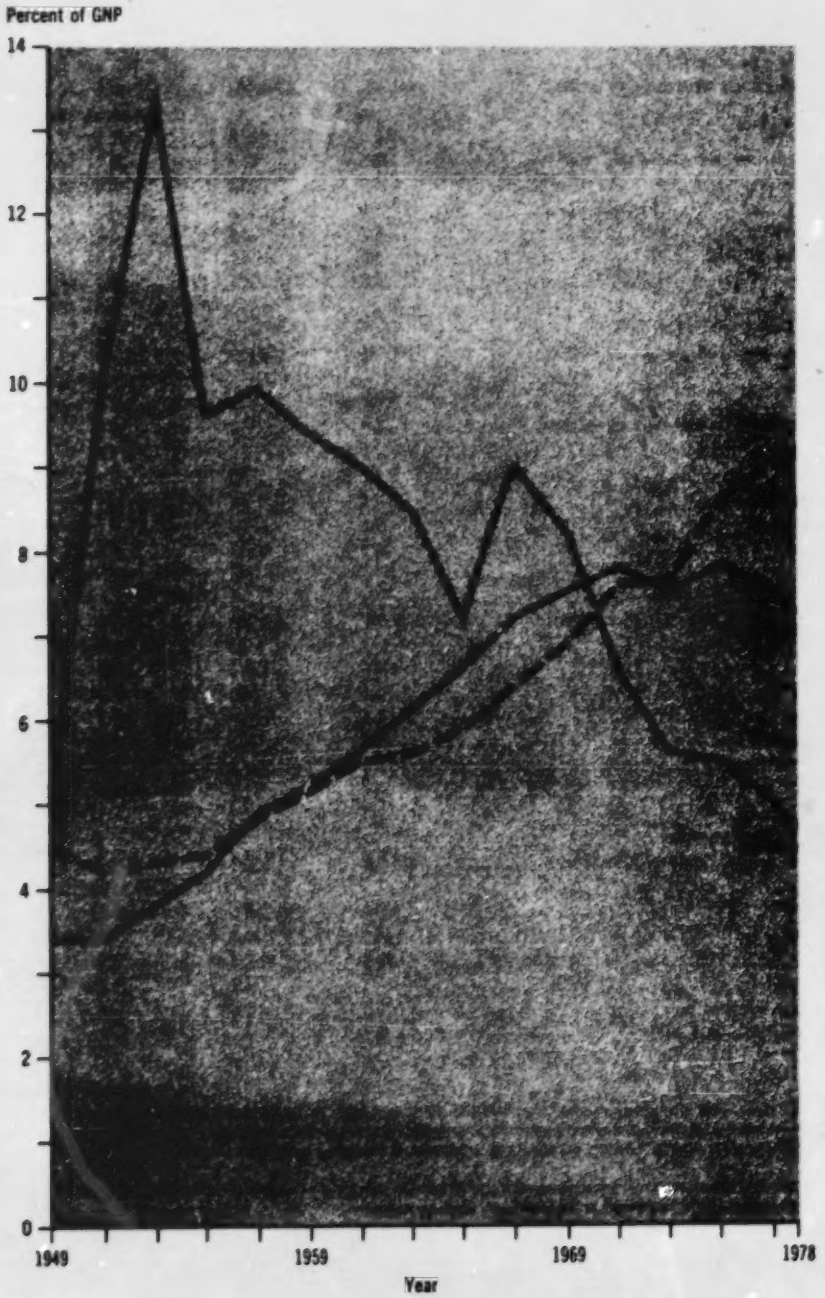
SOURCES: (1) U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Opening (Fall) Enrollment in Higher Education.* (2) U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, School Enrollment -- Social and Economic Characteristics of Students,* Series P-20.

Figure 4.--Number of bachelor's, master's, and doctor's degrees conferred in five selected areas: United States, 1963-64 to 1978-79



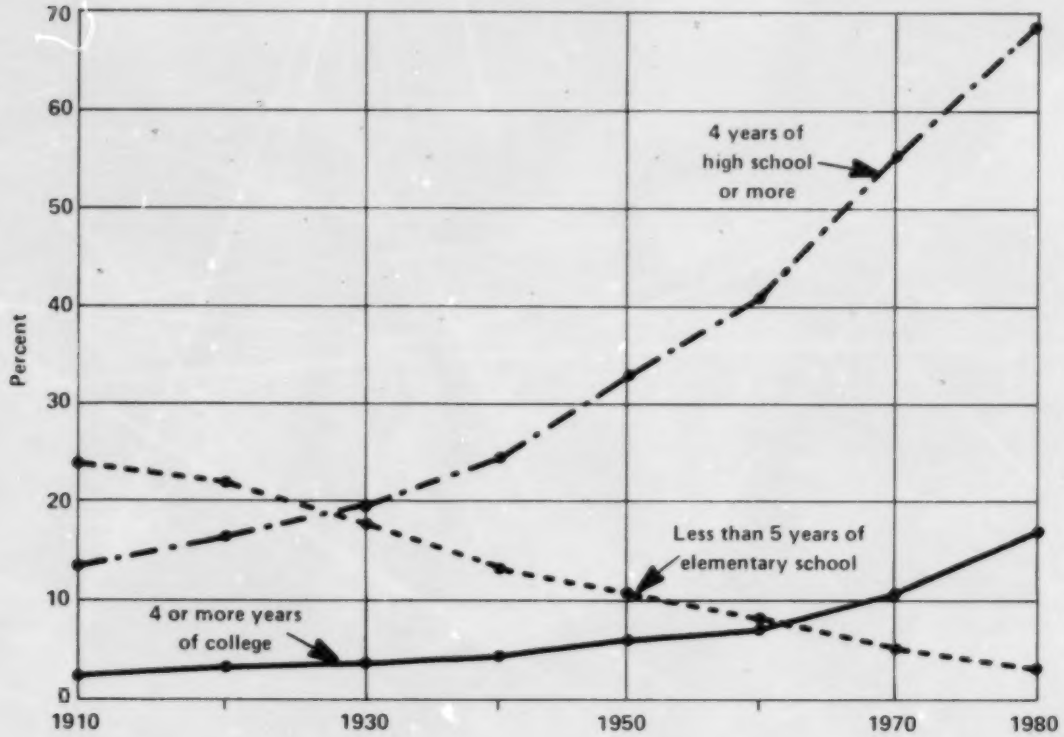
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Earned Degrees Conferred.*

Figure 5.--Expenditures for education, health, and defense as a percent of the gross national product: United States, 1949 to 1978



Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *The Condition of Education.*

Figure 6.--Level of school completed by persons 25 years old and over: United States, 1910 to 1980



NOTE.--Data prior to 1940 are estimates based on retrojection of 1940 census data on education by age. Prior to 1950, data exclude Alaska and Hawaii.

SOURCES: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *1960 Census of Population*, Vol. 1, Part 1; *Current Population Reports*, Series P-20, Series P-19, No. 4; and 1960 Census Monograph, *Education of the American Population*, by John K. Folger and Charles B. Nam.

Tables

Table 1.--Selected statistics for public elementary and secondary schools: United States, fall 1974 and fall 1979

Item	Fall 1974	Fall 1979	Percentage change, 1974 to 1979
1	2	3	4
Local school districts:			
Total	16,568	15,929	-3.9
Operating	16,239	15,625	-3.8
Nonoperating	329	304	-7.6
Schools[1]:			
Total	88,695	87,004	-1.9
Elementary only	61,759	(2)	—
Secondary only	23,837	(2)	—
Combined elementary and secondary	1,860	(2)	—
Special education schools for the handicapped	1,239	(2)	—
Enrollment:			
Total	45,053,272	41,578,665	-7.7
Kindergarten through grade 8	30,920,873	27,884,432	-9.8
Grades 9-12 and postgraduate	14,132,399	13,694,233	-3.1
Percent of total enrollment in elementary schools	68.6	67.1	—
Percent of total enrollment in secondary schools	31.4	32.9	—
Classroom teachers:			
Total teachers, full-time and part-time (full-time equivalent)	2,165,538	2,180,504	0.7
Pupil-teacher ratio:			
All schools	20.8	19.1	—
Public high school graduates[3]:			
Total graduates of regular day school programs	2,763,314	2,817,244	2.0
Boys	1,362,565	1,379,046	1.2
Girls	1,400,749	1,438,198	2.7
Other programs	40,204	37,397	-7.0
High school equivalency certificates	186,410	375,132	101.2

[1] Whether grades 7 and 8 are counted as "elementary" or "secondary" depends on the structure of the local school system.
[2] Data not available.
[3] Data for previous school year.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Statistics of Public Elementary and Secondary Day Schools, Fall 1975*, and *Fall 1979* (in process); and unpublished data.

Table 2.--Enrollment in educational institutions, by level of instruction and type of control: United States, fall 1978 and fall 1979[1]

[In thousands]

Level of instruction and type of control	Fall 1978	Fall 1979
1	2	2
Total elementary, secondary, and higher education	**59,156,092**	**58,490,564**
Public	51,622,893	50,837,487
Private	7,533,199	7,653,077
Kindergarten-grade 12 (regular and other schools)[2]	47,896,000	46,920,865
Regular public schools	42,611,000	41,578,665
Regular private schools	5,000,000	5,060,000
Other public schools	226,000	222,000
Other private schools	59,000	60,000
Kindergarten-grade 8 (regular and other schools)[2]	32,242,000	31,819,432
Regular public schools	28,455,000	27,884,432
Regular private schools	3,600,000	3,550,000
Other public schools	163,000	160,000
Other private schools	24,000	25,000
Grades 9-12 (regular and other schools)[2]	15,654,000	15,301,233
Regular public schools	14,156,000	13,694,233
Regular private schools	1,400,000	1,510,000
Other public schools	63,000	62,000
Other private schools	35,000	35,000
Higher education (total enrollment in colleges, universities, professional schools, teachers colleges, and junior colleges)	11,260,092	11,569,899
Public	8,785,893	9,036,822
Private	2,474,199	2,533,077

[1] The figures for private schools are estimates derived from changes in the school-age population combined with long-range trends in school enrollment rates.

[2] "Regular" schools include schools which are a part of State and local school systems and also most non-profitmaking private elementary and secondary schools, both church affiliated and nonsectarian. "Other" schools include subcollegiate departments of institutions of higher education, residential schools for exceptional children, Federal schools for Indians, and Federal schools on military posts and other Federal installations.

NOTE.--Fall enrollment is usually smaller than school-year enrollment, since the latter is a cumulative figure that includes students who enroll at any time during the year.

SOURCES: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Statistics of Public Elementary and Secondary Day Schools, Fall 1979; Fall Enrollment in Higher Education, 1979*; and estimates of the National Center for Education Statistics.

Table 3.--Enrollment in grades 9-12 in public and private schools compared with population 14-17 years of age: United States, 1889-90 to fall 1979

School year	Enrollment, grades 9-12[1]			Population 14-17 years of age[2]	Total number enrolled per 100 persons 14-17 years of age
	All schools	Public schools	Private Schools		
1	2	3	4	5	6
1889-90	359,949	[3] 202,963	[3] 94,931	5,354,653	6.7
1899-1900	699,403	[3] 519,251	[3] 110,797	6,152,231	11.4
1909-10	1,115,398	[3] 915,061	[3] 117,400	7,220,298	15.4
1919-20	2,500,176	[3] 2,200,389	[3] 213,920	7,735,841	32.3
1929-30	4,804,255	[3] 4,399,422	[3,4] 341,158	9,341,221	51.4
1939-40	7,123,009	6,635,337	487,672	9,720,419	73.3
1941-42	6,933,265	6,420,544	512,721	9,749,000	71.1
1943-44	6,030,617	5,584,656	445,961	9,449,000	63.8
1945-46	6,237,133	5,664,528	572,605	9,056,000	68.9
1947-48	6,305,168	5,675,937	629,231	8,841,000	71.3
1949-50	6,453,009	5,757,810	695,199	8,404,768	76.8
1951-52	6,596,351	5,917,384	678,967	8,516,000	77.5
1953-54	7,108,973	6,330,565	778,408	8,861,000	80.2
1955-56	7,774,975	6,917,790	857,185	9,207,000	84.4
1957-58	8,869,186	7,905,469	963,717	10,139,000	87.5
1959-60	9,599,810	8,531,454	1,068,356	11,154,879	86.1
1961-62	10,768,972	9,616,755	1,152,217	12,046,000	89.4
Fall 1963	12,255,496	10,935,536	1,319,960	13,492,000	90.8
Fall 1965	13,020,823	11,657,808	1,363,015	14,145,000	92.1
Fall 1969	14,418,301	13,084,301	[5] 1,334,000	15,550,000	92.7
Fall 1971	15,226,000	13,886,000	[5] 1,340,000	16,279,000	93.5
Fall 1973	15,476,526	14,141,526	[5] 1,335,000	16,745,000	92.4
Fall 1975	15,804,098	14,369,098	[5] 1,435,000	16,932,000	93.3
Fall 1977	15,820,000	14,305,000	[6] 1,515,000	16,782,000	94.3
Fall 1979[7]	**15,301,000**	**13,756,000**	[5] **1,545,000**	**16,275,000**	**94.0**

[1] Unless otherwise indicated, includes enrollment in subcollegiate departments of institutions of higher education and in residential schools for exceptional children. Beginning in 1949-50, also includes Federal schools.

[2] Includes all persons residing in the United States, but excludes Armed Forces overseas. Data from the decennial censuses have been used when appropriate. Other figures are Bureau of the Census estimates as of July 1 preceding the opening of the school year.

[3] Excludes enrollment in subcollegiate departments of institutions of higher education and in residential schools for exceptional children.

[4] Data for 1927-28.

[5] Estimated.

[6] Revised estimate.

[7] Preliminary data.

NOTE.--Beginning in 1959-60, includes Alaska and Hawaii.

SOURCES: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Statistics of State School Systems; Statistics of Public Elementary and Secondary Day Schools; Statistics of Nonpublic Elementary and Secondary Schools*, and unpublished data.

Table 4.--Enrollment of 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old children in preprimary programs, by age and by type of program: United States, October 1978 and October 1979

[Numbers in thousands]

Enrollment status and type of program	October 1978				October 1979			
	Total 3-5 years old	3 years old	4 years old	5 years old	Total 3-5 years old	3 years old	4 years old	5 years old
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Enrollment status								
Total population	9,110	3,023	3,028	3,060	9,119	3,025	3,070	3,024
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Enrolled	50.3	25.1	43.4	82.1	51.1	24.6	45.4	83.5
Not enrolled in these programs	49.7	74.9	56.6	17.9	48.9	75.4	54.6	16.5
Type of program								
Total enrolled	4,584	759	1,313	2,512	4,664	746	1,393	2,525
Nursery school	1,822	737	980	105	1,862	725	1,023	114
Public	585	225	307	52	633	216	359	58
Private	1,237	511	673	53	1,228	509	664	56
Kindergarten	2,762	23	333	2,406	2,802	20	370	2,411
Public	2,296	8	226	2,062	2,381	16	247	2,119
Private	466	15	107	344	421	5	123	293

NOTE.--Data exclude 5-year-olds enrolled at the primary level and 6-year-olds in preprimary programs. Because of rounding, details may not add to totals.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, unpublished data from the Current Population Surveys.

Table 5.--Total enrollment in institutions of higher education compared with population aged 18-24: United States, fall 1963 to fall 1979

Year	Population 18-24 years of age[1]	Enrollment	Number enrolled per 100 persons 18-24 years of age
1	2	3	4
1963	18,268,000	4,765,867	26.1
1964	18,783,000	5,280,020	28.1
1965	20,293,000	5,920,864	29.2
1966	21,376,000	6,389,872	29.9
1967	22,327,000	6,911,748	31.0
1968	22,883,000	7,513,091	32.8
1969	23,723,000	8,004,660	33.7
1970	24,687,000	8,580,887	34.8
1971	25,779,000	8,948,644	34.7
1972	25,913,000	9,214,860	35.6
1973	26,397,000	9,602,123	36.4
1974	26,916,000	10,223,729	38.0
1975	27,605,000	11,184,859	40.5
1976	28,163,000	11,012,137	39.1
1977	28,605,000	11,285,787	39.5
1978	28,971,000	11,260,092	38.9
1979	29,285,000	11,569,899	39.5

[1] Bureau of the Census estimates as of July 1 preceding the opening of the academic year. Includes Armed Forces overseas.

NOTE.--While 18 to 24 is frequently considered to be the usual age for college attendance, an increasing number of students in recent years have been outside this age group. According to a sample survey conducted by the Bureau of the Census in October 1979, 2.7 percent of the students were under 18; 45.7 percent, 18 to 21; 15.8 percent, 22 to 24; and 35.8 percent, 25 or over.

SOURCES: (1) U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Fall Enrollment in Higher Education*. (2) U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-25, Nos. 519, 704, 721, and 870.

Table 6.--Enrollment in institutions of higher education, by age, sex and attendance status of student: United States, fall 1969, 1974, and 1979

(In thousands)

Age	1969 (Estimated)			1974 (Estimated)			1979 (Estimated)		
	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time
Total	**8004.4**	**5499.2**	**2505.2**	**10218.1**	**6364.2**	**3853.9**	**11508.4**	**6815.7**	**4692.7**
16 and 17 years	226.4	214.4	12.0	301.9	265.4	36.5	255.2	229.2	26.0
18 and 19 years	2444.7	2305.6	139.1	2580.2	2308.1	252.1	2754.8	2434.5	320.3
20 and 21 years	1857.4	1632.6	224.8	2191.1	1828.3	362.8	2260.6	1876.0	384.6
22 to 24 years	1319.2	818.1	501.1	1571.4	961.2	610.2	1857.3	1144.8	712.5
25 to 29 years	1013.8	326.0	687.8	1621.0	604.8	1016.2	1816.4	654.4	1162.0
30 to 34 years	493.2	98.5	394.7	808.3	193.6	614.7	1080.8	274.7	806.1
35 years and over	649.7	104.0	545.7	1164.2	202.8	961.4	1483.3	202.1	1281.2
Men	**4746.1**	**3336.0**	**1410.1**	**5619.1**	**3643.2**	**1975.9**	**5846.1**	**3662.5**	**2183.6**
16 and 17 years	112.0	108.3	3.7	141.9	130.1	11.8	104.6	92.3	12.3
18 and 19 years	1317.4	1261.0	56.4	1260.0	1156.6	103.4	1336.2	1189.2	147.0
20 and 21 years	1063.6	955.8	107.8	1218.5	1024.5	194.0	1191.9	1008.0	183.9
22 to 24 years	891.5	620.7	270.8	954.1	665.0	289.1	1067.0	717.7	349.3
25 to 29 years	738.6	267.0	471.6	1035.7	431.5	604.2	1054.7	422.1	632.6
30 to 34 years	301.7	65.3	236.4	470.1	122.2	347.9	559.3	147.0	412.3
35 years and over	321.3	57.9	263.4	538.8	113.3	425.5	532.4	86.2	446.2
Women	**3258.3**	**2163.2**	**1095.1**	**4599.0**	**2721.0**	**1878.0**	**5662.3**	**3153.2**	**2509.1**
16 and 17 years	114.4	106.1	8.3	160.0	135.3	24.7	150.6	136.9	13.7
18 and 19 years	1127.3	1044.6	82.7	1300.2	1151.5	148.7	1418.6	1245.3	173.3
20 and 21 years	793.8	676.8	117.0	972.6	803.8	168.8	1068.7	868.0	200.7
22 to 24 years	427.7	197.4	230.3	617.3	296.2	321.1	790.3	427.1	363.2
25 to 29 years	275.2	59.0	216.2	585.3	173.3	412.0	761.7	232.3	529.4
30 to 34 years	191.5	33.2	158.3	338.2	71.4	266.8	521.5	127.7	393.8
35 years and over	328.4	46.1	282.3	625.9	89.5	535.9	950.9	115.9	835.0

NOTE.--Data are for 50 States and the District of Columbia for all years. Because of rounding, details may not add to totals.

SOURCES.--(1) U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Opening (Fall) Enrollment in Higher Education*. (2) U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, School Enrollment – Social and Economic Characteristics of Students*, Series P-20.

Table 7.--Number of teachers in regular elementary and secondary schools, and instructional staff members in institutions of higher education, by level and control: United States, 1929-30 to fall 1979 [1]

Level and control	1929-30	1939-40	1949-50	1959-60	1969-70	Fall 1978[2]	Fall 1979[2]
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Elementary[3]	702,524	640,047	665,665	953,431	1,271,467	1,352,000	1,351,000
Public	640,957	575,200	589,578	833,772	1,126,467	1,178,000	1,171,000
Private	[4]61,567	64,847	[2]76,087	[2]119,659	[2]145,000	174,000	180,000
Secondary[3]	235,094	330,407	366,277	577,160	970,786	1,108,000	1,100,000
Public	213,306	300,277	324,093	521,186	896,786	1,021,000	1,010,000
Private	[4]21,788	30,130	[2]42,184	[2]55,974	[2]74,000	87,000	90,000
Higher education[5]	84,872	116,817	190,353	281,506	[2]546,000	809,000	822,000
Public	38,305	50,013	87,707	144,541	[2]352,000	592,000	602,000
Private	46,567	66,804	102,646	136,965	[2]194,000	217,000	220,000

[1] Data for private elementary and secondary schools are not as complete as those for public schools; consequently, the estimates for private schools are not as reliable as those for public schools. The estimates are derived from enrollment changes combined with the long-term trend in pupil-teacher ratios.

[2] Estimated.

[3] Excludes subcollegiate departments of institutions of higher education, residential schools for exceptional children, and Federal schools.

[4] Data for 1927-28.

[5] Includes full-time and part-time staff with rank of instructor or above, and junior staff such as graduate assistants, who provide instruction in colleges, universities, and professional schools.

NOTE.--Beginning in 1959-60, includes Alaska and Hawaii.

SOURCES: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics, 1981*; *Projections of Education Statistics to 1988-89*; and surveys and estimates of the National Center for Education Statistics.

Table 8.--Pupil-teacher ratios in public elementary and secondary day schools: United States, fall 1954 to fall 1979

Fall	Pupil-teacher ratio	Fall	Pupil-teacher ratio
1	2	1	2
1954	27.8	1967	23.7
1955	26.9	1968	23.2
1956	26.5	1969	22.7
1957	26.2	1970	22.3
1958	26.1	1971	22.3
1959	26.0	1972	21.8
1960	25.8	1973	21.3
1961	25.8	1974	20.8
1962	25.7	1975	20.4
1963	25.6	1976	20.3
1964	25.1	1977	19.7
1965	24.7	1978	19.4
1966	24.1	1979	19.1

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Statistics of Public Elementary and Secondary Day Schools, Fall 1978* and estimates of the National Center for Education Statistics.

Table 9.--Number of high school graduates, by sex: United States, 1869-70 to 1978-79

School year	High school graduates[1]	
	Boys	Girls
1	3	4
1869-70	7,064	8,936
1879-80	10,605	13,029
1889-90	18,549	25,182
1899-1900	38,075	56,808
1909-10	63,676	92,753
1919-20	123,684	187,582
1929-30	300,376	366,528
1939-40	578,718	642,757
1941-42	576,717	665,658
1943-44	423,971	595,262
1945-46	466,926	613,107
1947-48	562,863	627,046
1949-50	570,700	629,000
1951-52	569,200	627,300
1953-54	612,500	663,600
1955-56	679,500	735,300
1957-58	725,500	780,400
1959-60	898,000	966,000
1961-62	941,000	984,000
1963-64	1,121,000	1,169,000
1965-66	1,308,000	1,324,000
1967-68	1,341,000	1,361,000
1969-70	1,433,000	1,463,000
1971-72	1,490,000	1,518,000
1973-74	1,515,000	1,565,000
1975-76	1,554,000	1,601,000
1977-78	1,535,000	1,599,000
1978-79[2]	1,531,800	1,602,400

[1] Includes public and estimated private school graduates.
[2] Includes preliminary public school data.

NOTE.--Beginning in 1959-60, includes Alaska and Hawaii.

SOURCES: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Statistics of State School Systems; Statistics of Nonpublic Elementary and Secondary Schools; Statistics of Public Elementary and Secondary Day Schools; Projections of Education Statistics to 1988-89;* and unpublished data.

Table 10.--Earned degrees conferred by institutions of higher education, by level of degree; United States, 1869-70 to 1978-79

Year	Earned degrees conferred				
	All degrees	Bachelor's[1]	First professional[1]	Master's[2]	Doctor's
1	2	3	4	5	6
1869-70	9,372	9,371	---	0	1
1879-80	13,829	12,896	---	879	54
1889-90	16,703	15,539	---	1,015	149
1899-1900	29,375	27,410	---	1,583	382
1909-10	39,755	37,199	---	2,113	443
1919-20	53,516	48,622	---	4,279	615
1929-30	139,752	122,484	---	14,969	2,299
1939-40	216,521	186,500	---	26,731	3,290
1941-42	213,491	185,346	---	24,648	3,497
1943-44	141,582	125,863	---	13,414	2,305
1945-46	157,349	136,174	---	19,209	1,966
1947-48	317,607	271,019	---	42,400	4,188
1949-50	496,661	432,058	---	58,183	6,420
1951-52	401,203	329,986	---	63,534	7,683
1953-54	356,608	290,825	---	56,788	8,995
1955-56	376,973	308,812	---	59,258	8,903
1957-58	436,979	362,554	---	65,487	8,938
1959-60	476,704	392,440	---	74,435	9,829
1961-62	514,323	417,846	---	84,855	11,622
1963-64	614,194	498,654	---	101,050	14,490
1965-66	709,832	519,804	31,236	140,555	18,237
1967-68	866,548	632,289	34,421	176,749	23,089
1969-70	1,065,391	792,316	34,918	208,291	29,866
1970-71	1,140,292	839,730	37,946	230,509	32,107
1971-72	1,215,680	887,273	43,411	251,633	33,363
1972-73	1,270,528	922,362	50,018	263,371	34,777
1973-74	1,310,441	945,776	53,816	277,033	33,816
1974-75	1,305,382	922,933	55,916	292,450	34,083
1975-76	1,334,230	925,746	62,649	311,771	34,064
1976-77	1,334,304	919,549	64,359	317,164	33,232
1977-78	1,331,536	921,204	66,581	311,620	32,131
1978-79	1,324,047	921,390	68,848	301,079	32,730

[1] From 1869-70 through 1963-64, first-professional degrees are included with bachelor's degrees.
[2] Prior to 1965-66, some master's degrees in fields such as library science and social work were counted as first-professional degrees and are reported in column 3.

NOTE.--Beginning in 1959-60, includes Alaska and Hawaii.

SOURCES: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Biennial Survey of Education in the United States; Earned Degrees Conferred; and* unpublished data.

Table 11.--Earned degrees conferred by institutions of higher education, by field of study and by level: United States, 1978-79

Field of study	Bachelor's degrees (requiring 4 or 5 years)	First professional degrees (requiring at least 6 years)	Master's degrees	Doctor's degrees (Ph.D., Ed.D., etc.)
1	2	3	4	5
All fields	**921,390**	**68,848**	**301,079**	**32,730**
Agriculture and natural resources	23,134	–	3,994	950
Architecture and environmental design	9,273	–	3,113	96
Area studies	2,586	–	773	133
Biological sciences	48,846	–	8,931	3,542
Business and management	172,915	–	50,506	863
Communications	26,457	–	2,882	192
Computer and information sciences	8,719	–	3,055	236
Education	126,006	–	111,536	7,731
Engineering	62,375	–	15,495	2,506
Fine and applied arts	40,969	–	8,524	700
Foreign languages	11,825	–	2,426	641
Health professions	62,085	27,035	15,485	718
Home economics	18,300	–	2,510	219
Law	678	35,206	1,647	46
Letters[1]	42,007	–	8,891	1,924
Library science	558	–	5,906	70
Mathematics	11,806	–	3,036	730
Military sciences	347	–	38	—
Physical sciences	23,207	–	5,451	3,102
Psychology	42,461	–	8,003	2,662
Public affairs and services	38,249	–	19,946	368
Social sciences	108,342	–	12,887	3,360
Theology	6,091	6,607	3,558	1,232
Interdisciplinary and other fields	34,154	—	4,586	709

[1] Includes general English; English literature; comparative literature; classics; linguistics; speech, debate and forensic science; creative writing; teaching of English as a foreign language; philosophy; and religious studies.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Earned Degrees Conferred, 1978-79* (in process).

Table 12.--Revenue receipts of public elementary and secondary schools from Federal, State, and local sources: United States, 1919-20 to 1978-79

School year	Total	Federal	State	Local (including intermediate)[1]	School year	Total	Federal	State	Local (including intermediate)[1]
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
	AMOUNT IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS					PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION			
1919-20	$ 970,120	$ 2,475	$ 160,085	$ 807,561	1919-20	100.0	0.3	16.5	83.2
1929-30	2,088,557	7,334	353,670	1,727,553	1929-30	100.0	.4	16.9	82.7
1939-40	2,260,527	39,810	684,354	1,536,363	1939-40	100.0	1.8	30.3	68.0
1941-42	2,416,580	34,305	759,993	1,622,281	1941-42	100.0	1.4	31.4	67.1
1943-44	2,604,322	35,886	859,183	1,709,253	1943-44	100.0	1.4	33.0	65.6
1945-46	3,059,845	41,378	1,062,057	1,956,409	1945-46	100.0	1.4	34.7	63.9
1947-48	4,311,534	120,270	1,676,362	2,514,902	1947-48	100.0	2.8	38.9	58.3
1949-50	5,437,044	155,848	2,165,689	3,115,507	1949-50	100.0	2.9	39.8	57.3
1951-52	6,423,816	227,711	2,478,596	3,717,507	1951-52	100.0	3.5	38.6	57.8
1953-54	7,866,852	355,237	2,944,103	4,567,512	1953-54	100.0	4.5	37.4	58.1
1955-56	9,686,677	441,442	3,828,886	5,416,350	1955-56	100.0	4.6	39.5	55.9
1957-58	12,181,513	486,484	4,800,368	6,894,661	1957-58	100.0	4.0	39.4	56.6
1959-60	14,746,618	651,639	5,768,047	8,326,932	1959-60	100.0	4.4	39.1	56.5
1961-62	17,527,707	760,975	6,789,190	9,977,542	1961-62	100.0	4.3	38.7	56.9
1963-64	20,544,182	896,956	8,078,014	11,569,213	1963-64	100.0	4.4	39.3	56.3
1965-66	25,356,858	1,996,954	9,920,219	13,439,686	1965-66	100.0	7.9	39.1	53.0
1967-68	31,903,064	2,806,469	12,275,536	16,821,063	1967-68	100.0	8.8	38.5	52.7
1969-70	40,266,923	3,219,557	16,062,776	20,984,589	1969-70	100.0	8.0	39.9	52.1
1971-72	50,003,645	4,467,969	19,133,256	26,402,420	1971-72	100.0	8.9	38.3	52.8
1973-74	58,230,892	4,930,351	24,113,409	29,187,132	1973-74	100.0	8.5	41.4	50.1
1975-76	71,206,073	6,318,345	31,776,101	33,111,627	1975-76	100.0	8.9	44.6	46.5
1977-78	[2]81,443,160	[2]7,694,194	[2]35,013,266	38,735,700	1977-78	100.0	[2]9.4	43.0	47.6
1978-79	**88,056,997**	**8,594,493**	**40,245,891**	**39,216,613**	**1978-79**	**100.0**	**9.8**	**45.7**	**44.5**

[1]Includes a relatively small amount from nongovernmental sources (gifts and tuition and transportation fees from patrons). These sources accounted for 0.4 percent of total revenue receipts in 1967-68.
[2]Data revised since originally published.

NOTE.--Beginning in 1959-60, includes Alaska and Hawaii. Because of rounding, details may not add to totals.

SOURCES: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Statistics of State School Systems; and Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education, 1977-78* and *1978-79*.

Table 13.--Total and per-pupil expenditures of public elementary and secondary schools: United States, 1919-20 to 1978-79

School year	Expenditures for public schools (in thousands of dollars)					Expenditure per pupil in average daily attendance	
	Total	Current expenditures for day schools	Current expenditures for other programs[1]	Capital outlay	Interest	Total[2]	Current[3]
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1919-20	$ 1,036,151	$ 861,120	$ 3,277	$ 153,543	$ 18,212	$ 64	$ 54
1929-30	2,316,790	1,843,552	9,825	370,878	92,536	108	87
1939-40	2,344,049	1,941,799	13,367	257,974	130,909	106	88
1949-50	5,837,643	4,687,274	35,614	1,014,176	100,578	269	209
1959-60	15,613,255	12,329,389	132,566	2,661,786	489,514	472	375
1961-62	18,373,339	14,729,270	194,093	2,862,153	587,823	530	419
1963-64	21,324,993	17,218,446	427,528	2,977,976	701,044	559	460
1965-66	26,248,026	21,053,280	648,304	3,754,862	791,580	654	537
1967-68	32,977,182	26,877,162	866,419	4,255,791	977,810	788	658
1969-70	40,683,428	34,217,773	635,803	4,659,072	1,170,782	955	816
1971-72	48,050,283	41,817,782	[4]395,319	4,458,949	1,378,236	1,128	990
1973-74	56,970,355	50,024,638	[4]453,207	4,978,976	1,513,534	1,364	1,207
1975-76	70,600,573	62,054,105	[4]553,649	6,146,435	1,846,384	2,096	1,858
1977-78	80,844,366	73,058,023	588,782	5,245,161	1,952,400	2,190	1,994
1978-79	86,711,615	78,951,240	357,454	5,448,035	1,954,886	2,210	2,021

[1] Includes expenditures for adult education, summer schools, community colleges, and community services (when separately reported).
[2] Includes current expenditures for day schools, capital outlay, and interest on school debt.
[3] Includes day school expenditures only; excludes current expenditures for other programs.
[4] Excludes data for adult education and community colleges.

NOTE.--Beginning in 1959-60, includes Alaska and Hawaii. Because of rounding, details may not add to totals.

SOURCES: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Statistics of State School Systems*; and *Digest of Education Statistics, 1981*.

Table 14.--Current-fund revenue of institutions of higher education, by control of institution and by source of revenue: United States, 1978-79

[Amounts in thousands of dollars]

Source	Current-fund revenue, by control of institution					
	Public and private		Public		Private	
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Total current-fund revenue	**$51,837,789**	**100.0**	**$34,527,476**	**100.0**	**$17,310,313**	**100.0**
Tuition and fees from students	10,704,171	20.6	4,380,567	12.7	6,323,604	36.5
Federal Government	7,851,326	15.1	4,539,102	13.1	3,312,224	19.1
State governments	16,363,784	31.6	16,018,102	46.4	345,682	2.0
Local governments	1,573,018	3.0	1,461,412	4.2	111,607	.6
Private gifts, grants, and contracts	2,489,366	4.8	835,892	2.4	1,653,475	9.6
Endowment income	985,242	1.9	153,624	.4	831,618	4.8
Sales and services	10,541,892	20.3	6,455,441	18.7	4,086,451	23.6
Other sources	1,328,991	2.6	683,338	2.0	645,653	3.7

[1] Generally includes only those revenues associated with major federally funded research and development centers.

[2] Less than 0.05 percent.

NOTE.--Because of rounding, details may not add to totals.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Financial Statistics of Institutions of Higher Education, Fiscal Year 1979.*

Table 15.--Governmental expenditures for education and for all purposes: United States, 1972-73 to 1978-79

Fiscal year	Total expenditures (in millions)	Expenditures for education	
		Amount (in millions)	Percent of total
1	2	3	4
1973-74	$ 480,073	$ 81,653	17.0
1974-75	556,339	95,011	17.1
1975-76	[1] 630,144	[1] 110,283	17.0
1976-77	680,329	110,643	16.3
1977-78	745,438	118,750	15.9
1978-79	832,385	129,427	15.5

[1] Includes Federal expenditures for the transition quarter July 1-September 30, 1976 when the Federal fiscal year was adjusted under P.L. 93-344.

NOTE.--Includes expenditures of Federal, State, and local governments.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, reports on *Governmental Finances*.

Table 16.--Gross national product related to total expenditures[1] for education: United States, 1929-30 to 1978-79

Calendar year	Gross national product (in millions)	School year	Expenditures for education		Calendar year	Gross national product (in millions)	School year	Expenditures for education	
			Total (in thousands)	As a percent of gross national product				Total (in thousands)	As a percent of gross national product
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
1929	$103,400	1929-30	$ 3,233,601	3.1	1953	$ 366,129	1953-54	$ 13,949,876	3.8
1931	76,100	1931-32	2,968,464	3.9	1955	399,266	1955-56	16,811,651	4.2
1933	55,800	1933-34	2,294,896	4.1	1957	442,755	1957-58	21,119,565	4.8
1935	72,500	1935-36	2,649,914	3.7	1959	486,465	1959-60	24,722,464	5.1
1937	90,700	1937-38	3,014,074	3.3	1961	523,292	1961-62	29,366,306	5.6
1939	90,800	1939-40	3,199,583	3.5	1963	594,738	1963-64	36,010,210	6.1
1941	124,900	1941-42	3,203,548	2.6	1965	688,110	1965-66	45,397,713	6.6
1943	192,000	1943-44	3,522,007	1.8	1967	796,312	1967-68	57,213,374	7.2
1945	212,300	1945-46	4,167,597	2.0	1969	935,541	1969-70	70,400,980	7.5
1947	232,757	1947-48	6,574,379	2.8	1971	1,063,436	1971-72	82,999,062	7.8
1949	258,023	1949-50	8,796,635	3.4	1973	1,306,554	1973-74	98,512,847	7.5
1951	330,183	1951-52	11,312,446	3.4	1975	1,528,833	1975-76	[2] 121,603,841	8.0
					1977	1,899,508	1977-78	140,367,563	7.4
					1978	2,156,000	1978-79	152,127,262	7.1

[1] Includes expenditures of public and private schools at all levels of education (elementary, secondary, and higher).

[2] Revised since originally published.

NOTE.--Beginning with 1959-60 school year, includes Alaska and Hawaii.

SOURCES: (1) U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Statistics of State School Systems; Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education, 1977-78; Financial Statistics of Institutions of Higher Education;* and unpublished data. (2) U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Survey of Current Business*, January 1976, July 1979, and January 1980.

Table 17.--Estimated retention rates,[1] 5th grade through college entrance, in public and private schools: United States, 1924-32 to 1971-79

School year pupils entered 5th grade	Retention per 1,000 pupils who entered 5th grade										
	5th grade	6th grade	7th grade	8th grade	9th grade	10th grade	11th grade	12th grade	High school graduation		First-time college students
									Number	Year of graduation	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1924-25	1,000	911	798	741	612	470	384	344	302	1932	118
1926-27	1,000	919	824	754	677	552	453	400	333	1934	129
1928-29	1,000	939	847	805	736	624	498	432	378	1936	137
1930-31	1,000	943	872	824	770	652	529	463	417	1938	148
1932-33	1,000	935	889	831	786	664	570	510	466	1940	160
1934-35	1,000	953	892	842	803	711	610	512	467	1942	129
1936-37	1,000	954	895	849	839	704	554	426	393	1944	121
1938-39	1,000	955	908	853	796	655	532	444	419	1946	(2)
1940-41	1,000	968	910	836	781	697	566	507	481	1948	(2)
1942-43	1,000	954	909	847	807	713	604	539	506	1950	205
1944-45	1,000	952	929	858	848	748	650	549	522	1952	234
1946-47	1,000	954	945	919	872	775	641	583	563	1954	283
1948-49	1,000	984	956	929	863	795	706	619	581	1956	301
1950-51	1,000	981	968	921	886	809	709	632	582	1958	306
1952-53	1,000	974	965	936	904	835	746	667	621	1960	328
1954-55	1,000	980	979	948	915	855	759	684	642	1962	343
1956-57	1,000	985	984	948	930	871	790	728	676	1964	362
Fall 1958	1,000	983	979	961	946	908	842	761	732	1966	384
Fall 1960	1,000	980	973	967	952	913	858	787	749	1968	452
Fall 1962	1,000	987	977	967	959	928	860	790	750	1970	461
Fall 1964	1,000	888	985	976	975	942	865	791	748	1972	433
Fall 1966	1,000	989	986	985	985	959	871	783	744	1974	448
Fall 1968	1,000	992	992	991	983	958	869	788	749	1976	435
Fall 1970	1,000	990	990	988	982	965	881	797	744	1978	440
Fall 1971	1,000	991	989	989	985	976	874	794	743	1979	451

[1] Rates for the 5th grade through high school graduation are based on enrollments in successive grades in successive years in public elementary and secondary schools and are adjusted to include estimates for nonpublic schools. Rates for first-time college enrollment include full-time and part-time students enrolled in programs creditable toward a bachelor's degree.

[2] Data not available.

NOTE.--Beginning with the class in the 5th grade in 1958, data are based on fall enrollment and exclude ungraded pupils. The net effect of these changes is to increase high school graduation and college entrance rates slightly.

SOURCES: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Biennial Survey of Education in the United States; Statistics of State School Systems; Fall Statistics of Public Elementary and Secondary Day Schools;* and unpublished data.

Table 18.--Level of school completed by persons age 25 and over and 25 to 29, by race: United States, 1910 to 1980

Race, age, and date	Percent, by level of school completed			Median school years completed
	Less than 5 years of elementary school	4 years of high school or more	4 or more years of college	
1	2	3	4	5
All races				
25 and over:				
1910[1]	23.8	13.5	2.7	8.1
1920[1]	22.0	16.4	3.3	8.2
1930[1]	17.5	19.1	3.9	8.4
April 1940	13.5	24.1	4.6	8.6
April 1950	10.8	33.4	6.0	9.3
April 1960	8.3	41.1	7.7	10.5
March 1970	5.3	55.2	11.0	12.2
March 1975	4.2	62.6	13.9	12.3
March 1980	3.3	68.7	17.0	12.5
25 to 29:				
April 1940	5.9	37.8	5.8	10.4
April 1950	4.6	51.7	7.7	12.1
April 1960	2.8	60.7	11.1	12.3
March 1970	1.1	75.4	16.4	12.6
March 1975	1.0	83.2	22.0	12.8
March 1980	0.7	85.8	22.6	12.9
White				
25 and over:				
April 1940	10.9	26.1	4.9	8.7
April 1950	8.7	35.5	6.4	9.7
April 1960	6.7	43.2	8.1	10.8
March 1970	4.2	57.4	11.6	12.2
March 1975	3.3	64.6	14.5	12.4
March 1980	2.6	70.7	17.9	12.5
25 to 29:				
1920[1]	12.9	22.0	4.5	8.5
April 1940	3.4	41.2	6.4	10.7
April 1950	3.2	55.2	8.1	12.2
April 1960	2.2	63.7	11.8	12.3
March 1970	0.9	77.8	17.3	12.6
March 1975	1.0	84.5	22.9	12.8
March 1980	0.7	87.2	23.9	12.9
Black and other races				
25 and over:				
April 1940	41.8	7.7	1.3	5.7
April 1950	31.4	13.4	2.2	6.9
April 1960	23.5	21.7	3.5	8.2
March 1970	14.7	36.1	6.1	10.1
March 1975	11.8	46.4	9.1	11.4
March 1980	9.1	54.0	10.7	12.1
25 to 29:				
1920[1]	44.6	6.3	1.2	5.4
April 1940	26.7	12.1	1.6	7.1
April 1950	15.4	23.4	2.8	8.7
April 1960	7.2	38.6	5.4	10.8
March 1970	2.2	58.4	10.0	12.2
March 1975	0.7	73.8	15.2	12.6
March 1980	1.1	77.1	14.6	12.7

[1] Estimates based on retrojection of 1940 census data on education by age.

NOTE.--Prior to 1950, data exclude Alaska and Hawaii. Data for 1975 and 1980 are for the noninstitutional population.

SOURCES: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *1960 Census of Population*, Vol. 1, Part 1; *Current Population Reports*, Series P-20, Series P-19, No. 4; and 1960 Census Monograph, *Education of the American Population*, by John K. Folger and Charles B. Nam.

Table 19.--Scholastic Aptitude Test score averages for college-bound high school seniors, by sex: United States, 1966-67 to 1979-80

School year	Verbal score			Mathematical score		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1966-67	466	463	468	492	514	467
1967-68	466	464	466	492	512	470
1968-69	463	459	466	493	513	470
1969-70	460	459	461	488	509	465
1970-71	455	454	457	488	507	466
1971-72	453	454	452	484	505	461
1972-73	445	446	443	481	502	460
1973-74	444	447	442	480	501	459
1974-75	434	437	431	472	495	449
1975-76	431	433	430	472	497	446
1976-77	429	431	427	470	497	445
1977-78	429	433	425	468	494	444
1978-79	427	431	423	467	493	443
1979-80	424	428	420	466	491	443

NOTE.--Data for the years 1966-67 through 1970-71 are estimates derived from the test scores of all participants.

SOURCE: College Entrance Examination Board, *National Report, College Bound Seniors, 1980*. (Copyright © 1980 by the College Entrance Examination Board. All rights reserved.)

Table 20.–States using minimum competency testing, by government level setting standards, grade levels assessed, and expected uses of standards: 1979

States using minimum competency testing	Government level setting standards	Grade levels assessed	Expected [1] uses of standards				
			Grade promotion	High school graduation	Early exit	Remediation	Other
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Alabama	State	3, 6, 9+		X		X	
Arizona	State/local	8, 12		X			X
Arkansas	State	3, 4, 6, 8					X
California	State/local	4-11, 16 yr. old+	X	X	X	X	
Colorado	Local	9, 12		Local option			
Connecticut	State/local	3, 5, 7, 9				X	X
Delaware	State	11		X			
Florida	State/local	3, 5, 8, 11	X	X	X		
Georgia	State	4, 8, 10, 11					X
Idaho	State	9-12		Local option			
Illinois	Local	Local option					Local option
Indiana	Local	3, 6, 8, 10				X	X
Kansas	State	2-4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12					Local option
Kentucky	State/local	3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11					X
Louisiana	State	4, 8, 11					X
Maine	State	8, 11					X
Maryland	State	3, 7, 9, 11	X	X		X	
Massachusetts	Local	Local option					X
Michigan	State	4, 7, 10					Local option
Missouri	State	8					X
Nebraska	Local	5+					X
Nevada	State	3, 6, 9, 12		X		X	
New Hampshire	State	4, 8, 12					Local option
New Jersey	State	3, 6, 9-12		X		X	X
New Mexico	State	Local option, 10					X
New York	State	3, 6, 8-12		X		X	
North Carolina	State	1-3, 6, 9, 11		X			
Oklahoma	None	3, 6, 9, 12					X
Oregon	Local	Local option		X			X
Rhode Island	State	4, 8, 10					
South Carolina	State	1-3, 6, 8, 11				X	X
Tennessee	State/local	4-6, 8, 11, 12		X		X	X
Texas	Not reported	3, 5, 9+				X	
Utah	Local	Local option		X			
Vermont	State	K-12		X			X
Virginia	State/local	K-6, 9-12		X			
Washington	Local	4, 8					Local option
Wyoming	Local	Local option		X			

[1] In most States uses of standards will be phased in and are not yet in effect.

SOURCE: Education Commission of the States, Department of Research and Information, *States Activity--Minimum Competency Testing, 1980.*

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